



## In the heat of the summer : Lessons from the heat waves in Paris

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### Abstract:

Climate change and human health are intertwined.<sup>1</sup> The heat waves in Chicago, in 1995, and in Paris, in 2003, followed by Hurricane Katrina's destruction of New Orleans, raised awareness of the risks faced by vulnerable older people. Many cities have responded by announcing emergency preparedness plans; some of these plans have already been tested. Last summer, from July 27 to August 5, New York City suffered a mild heat wave with temperatures reaching 100°F. Paris, as well, was hit by another heat wave from July 17 to July 29, with maximum temperatures reaching 104°F, which was considerably milder than in 2003 when they often exceeded 110°F. In New York, there were 100 "excess deaths," an increase of 8% over past trends.<sup>2</sup> In Paris, the number of excess deaths in 2006 (42), also an increase of 8%, was considerably lower than the 1,294 deaths registered in 2003—an increase of 190% compared to the preceding three-year average.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2219563>

### Resource Description

#### Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Europe

**European Region/Country:** European Country

**Other European Country :** France

**Health Impact:** ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Morbidity/Mortality

**Intervention:** ☒

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

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**Mitigation/Adaptation:** ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly

**Other Vulnerable Population:** women; high SES

**Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

**Resilience:** ☒

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

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**Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

**Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:** ☒

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

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